

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 03281 01 OF 02 131056Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
HA-05 EB-08 AID-05 CU-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /084 W
-----088446 131102Z /13

R 130926Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7419
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 3281

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH OPENS MPR GENERAL SESSION

REF: JAKARTA 3196

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S MARCH 11 SPEECH TO THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY ACCOUNTING FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS FOLLOWED THE PATTERN AND CONTENT OF HIS RECENT ANNUAL STATE ADDRESSES, AND CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD PRODUCTION EFFORTS, CONFIRMED THE RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR POLITICAL DETAINEES, AND REJECTED FOREIGN AID WITH STRINGS ATTACHED. REACTION TO THE SPEECH WAS PREDICTABLY MILD, BUT MORE COMMENTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN FUTURE MPR SESSIONS. FACTIONAL DISAGREEMENTS HAVE TEMPORARILY STALLED ADOPTION OF MPR STANDING ORDERS. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 03281 01 OF 02 131056Z

2. PRESIDENT SUHARTO OPENED THE GENERAL SESSION OF THE MPR MARCH 11 WITH A SOPORIFIC THREE AND ONE-HALF HOUR SPEECH ACCOUNTING FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS. EXCEPT FOR THE ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIRED TO COVER DEVELOPMENTS DURING SUCH A LONG PERIOD, THE SPEECH WAS SIMILAR IN BOTH ORGANIZATION AND CONTENT TO HIS ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY ADDRESSES AND NEW

YEAR SPEECHES OF THE LAST FEW YEARS. HIS AUDIENCE MAINTAINED THE CUSTOMARY POLITE SILENCE DURING THE ADDRESS, SHOWING REAL INTEREST ONLY WHEN THE PRESIDENT MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF KEPERCAYAAN (JAVANESE MYSTICAL BELIEFS) IN THE GUIDELINES FOR STATE POLICY (GBHN) AND THE GUIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PANCASILA (P4) TO BE APPROVED BY THE MPR.

3. IN OTHER PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH, SUHARTO PROCLAIMED THAT THE BASIC ISSUE FOR INDONESIA IS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH INCLUDES BOTH NATIONAL STABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND HE NOTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE INSTITUTIONS ACCORDING TO LAW, INCLUDING THE HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS EVERY FIVE YEARS, WAS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN PROMOTING A DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM. COMMENTING ON CURRENT STUDENT UNREST, HE OBSERVED THAT PANCASILA DEMOCRACY IS OPEN TO CRITICISM, EVEN IF HARSH, BUT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT TOLERATE VIOLENCE AND COERCION. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THE GREATEST CHALLENGES TO HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN UPHEAVALS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY, THE PERTAMINA CRISIS, AND OBSTACLES IN FOOD PRODUCTION, AND HE WENT ON TO DISCUSS EFFORTS TO INCREASE LOCAL FOOD SUPPLIES. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WAS ACCEPTABLE, SUHARTO STATED, ONLY IF IT HAD NO POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED, WAS APPROPRIATE TO INDONESIA'S OWN DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND INCLUDED REASONABLE REPAYMENT TERMS. HE PLEDGED THAT INDONESIA WOULD NEVER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKART 03281 01 OF 02 131056Z

BIND ITSELF POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, OR CULTURALLY TO THE NATIONS PROVIDING AID.

4. SUHARTO REAFFIRMED THAT 10,000 POLITICAL DETAINEES IN CLASS B WOULD BE RELEASED THIS YEAR AND THE REMAINDER IN 1979. AND THAT ALL OF THOSE IN CLASS A WOULD HAVE THEIR CASES SETTLED IN 1978, ADDING THAT 894 OF THOSE IN CLASS A HAD ALREADY BEEN TRIED WITH 24 BEING ACQUITTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 JAKART 03281 02 OF 02 131049Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 3281

5. REACTION TO THE SPEECH WAS PREDICTABLY MILD. MPR CHAIRMAN ADAM MALIK DESCRIBED IT AS "GOOD AND COMPREHENSIVE," AND GOLKAR CHIEF AMIR MURTONO SAID IT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO HIS FACTION. THE LEADER OF THE MUSLIM-SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT UNITY PARTY (PPP) FACTION N THE MPR, NUDDIN LUBIS, REFUSED TO ANSWER EPORTERS' QUESTIONS ON THE SPEECH BUT SAID HIS PARTY WOULD MAKE ITS COMMENTS IN THE APPROPRIATE MPR SESSION. FELLOW PPP LEADER AMIN ISKANDAR, HOWEVER, COMMENTED THAT THE SPEECH WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT EVERYONE WOULD AGREE WITH IT, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE BE SET UP TO EVALUATE THE PRESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTING. INDONESIA DEMOCRATIC PARY (PDI) SECRETARY GENERL SABAM SIRAIT TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE ADDRESS WAS NOT COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY, SINCE IT HAD NOT CLEARLY EXPLAINED THE CAUSES OF GOVERNMENT FAILURES IN SUCH IMPORTANT FIELDS AS AGRICULTURE. PRO-GOVERNMENT PDI LEADER MOHAMMED ISNAENI TERMED THE SPEECH COMPREHENSIVE, BUT SAID MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EDUCTION. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 03281 02 OF 02 131049Z

6. FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH A PLENARY SESSION OF MPR MEMBERS APPROVED THE AGENDA WITHOUT DISSENT BUT FAILED TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY ON THE STANDING ORDERS FOR THE GENERAL SESSION. AFTER INTENSIVE LOBBYING EFFORTS SATURDAY AMONG THE VARIOUS FACTIONS YIELDED NO RESULTS, IT WAS AGREED TO PROCEED UNDER THE 1973 STANDING ORDERS UNTIL NEW ONES COULD BE APPROVED. THE MAJOR OBSTACLE WAS REPORTEDLY THE INSISTENCE OF THE PPP FACTION ON VARIOUS POINTS, INCLUDING SEPARATE CHAIRMEN FOR THE MPR AND THE DPR (PARLIAMENT); ANNUAL MPR SESSIONS TO HEAR PRESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTING EACH AUGUST 15; THE RIGHT OF THE MPR TO REVIEW LAWS; AND CONTINUING SESSIONS OF THE MPR STERRING COMMITTEE.

7. COMMENT: THE MPR SCHEDULE DEVOTED MARCH 12 AND 13 TO FACTION MEETINGS FOR PREPARATION OF THEIR VIEWS ON THE MAJOR RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE MPR SUCH AS THE GBHN AND P4. THIS TIME WILL NOW PRESUMABLY BE USED FOR MORE LOBBYING ON THE STANDING ORDERS, WITH THE PPP GIVEN LITTLE CHANCE OF INCORPORATING THEIR LISTED DEMANDS BUT STAKING OUT A BARGAINING POSITION FOR CONCESSIONS ON MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING PROCEDURES TO BE DISCUSSED LATER IN THE WEEK. THE PPP WILL SURELY BE HEARD FROM AGAIN WHEN THE FACTIONS' VIEW ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS ARE DISCUSSED MARCH 14.
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